

Leasing of trains to advertising agencies

3151. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways are planning to let out its prime mobile assets, i.e., trains, to advertising agencies;

(b) whether the Organisation has 6984 stations and is transporting 12 million passengers per day;

(c) whether revenue from this policy brought in Rs. 29 crores in 1999-2000 which is likely to increase to Rs. 60 crores; and

(d) if so, what are the Railways plans for increasing its revenue from this source?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Policy guidelines covering certain selected passenger trains and freight trains have been issued in this regard. The Railways have 6867 stations and carry more than 12 million passengers per day.

(c) Rs. 29 crores (approx.) was earned from Commercial Publicity including publicity on trains during 1999-2000. This is likely to increase during the current year but a specific estimate in this regard cannot be made.

(d) For increasing the revenue from this source, broad policy guidelines regarding commercial publicity including trains have been issued to all the Zonal Railways. The Zonal Railways have also taken various steps like reassessment of value of sites, revision of rates, identification of new locations, liaison with various advertising agencies etc.

Gauge conversion between Raxaul and Birganj

3152. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of broad gauge conversion between Raxaul in Bihar and Birganj in Nepal; and

(b) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Track Unking has been completed. The work will be completed by 31.3.2001.

Development of Railways

3153. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that because of lack of resources, the development of Railways is in very bad shape; if so, what growth rate has been planned and how much money is required for that;

(b) whether there are any plans for modernisation of the Railways; if so, how much money is required for that purpose; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the Ministry of Railways for resources mobilisation to achieve the targets set?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) There has been a shortage of resources for undertaking developmental works on the Railways to the desired level. The growth rate planned during the IX Five Year Plan was 5% for freight traffic and 3.1% for passenger traffic. A Plan-size of Rs. 65,000 Crores was projected by the Railways. However, owing to the resource constraints, finally a Plan-size of Rs. 45,413 Crores was approved.

Modernisation of systems on the Railways is a need based and continuous exercise, which takes into account the availability of resources and requirements of traffic and safety.

Railways are making efforts to capture additional traffic and recover outstanding dues of the Railways. Action has been initiated to mobilise resources, though various innovative methods, such as utilisation of Railway land and air space, leasing of right of way for optic fiber communication channels, leasing of advertising rights at Railway Stations and on Rolling stock etc. State Governments and user agencies such as Ports, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) etc. are also being involved in the execution and funding of rail projects.